

Members

Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Susan Crosby
Rep. John Day
Rep. Craig Fry
Rep. Brian Hasler
Rep. Win Moses
Rep. Peggy Welch
Rep. Vaneta Becker
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Timothy Brown
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. David Frizzell
Rep. Gloria Goeglein
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Greg Server
Sen. Kent Adams
Sen. Beverly Gard
Sen. Steve Johnson
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Vi Simpson

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HEALTH FINANCE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 8, 2000
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
House Chamber
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. Brian Hasler; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Susan Crosby; Rep. John Day; Rep. Craig Fry; Rep. Win Moses; Rep. Peggy Welch; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Steve Johnson; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Vi Simpson.

Members Absent: Rep. Vaneta Becker; Rep. Timothy Brown; Rep. David Frizzell; Rep. Gloria Goeglein; Sen. Greg Server; Sen. Beverly Gard.

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Charlie Brown at 1:10 pm. Rep. Brown asked the members to introduce themselves and explained the purpose of the Commission. Rep. Brown then informed the Commission members of the schedule of meetings for the remainder of the interim. All meetings will take place at 1:00 pm. The schedule is as

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

follows:

- 1.) August 29, 2000 discussing HR 69-2000 (concerning the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act).
- 2.) September 12, 2000 discussing SR 32-2000 (concerning privacy of personal health information).
- 3.) September 26, 2000 discussing HB 1124-2000 (concerning health facilities, training of employees, and complaint procedures).
- 4.) October 10, 2000 discussing SCR 13-2000 (concerning the development of a methodology to objectively provide information to the General Assembly regarding the impact of proposed or enacted health insurance mandates).
- 5.) October 24, 2000 discussing additional issues, or recommendations.
- 6.) Tentative meeting on October 31, 2000 if needed for recommendations.

Rep. Brown asked Rep. Susan Crosby to begin the testimony regarding HCR 48-2000 concerning recommendations regarding effects of obesity on costly health implications. Rep. Crosby explained that obesity is an increasing problem, both nationally and in Indiana. She stated that one-third of all adults in Indiana are considered obese and that 13% of children aged 6 to 11 years are considered overweight. Rep. Crosby pointed out that health risks for other diseases increase with obesity.

In response to a question from Sen. Rogers regarding the definition of obesity, Rep. Crosby deferred to the following testimony.

Barbara Cole, Health Educator, Office of Women's Health, Indiana State Department of Health presented a handout.² Ms. Cole discussed the process that the Office of Women's Health has created to address issues. She explained that an individual with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 to 29.9 is considered overweight, and that an individual with a BMI greater than or equal to 30 is considered obese. Ms. Cole referred to the various portions of her handout including: (a) a survey (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) on health risk factors nationally and in Indiana; (b) charts reflecting statistics regarding obesity in relation to age, gender, race, income and risk factors for disease; (c) educational programs in Indiana intended to achieve behavior changes to improve health; and (d) Healthy People 2010 goals.

Susan Preble, Legislative Liaison, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), introduced Denise Ingram, M.D., Medical Director, Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP), FSSA.³ Dr. Ingram agreed that obesity is a significant health problem nationally and in Indiana. She stated that OMPP is particularly interested in preventing and treating obesity in the Medicaid population. Dr. Ingram referred to interventions that are currently in place in the Hoosier Healthwise program and stressed the importance of addressing obesity prevention in women of childbearing age and in children.

In response to Rep. Brown's question regarding weight loss programs that promise results, but may not completely disclose the requirements for success of the program, Dr. Ingram stressed the need for constant reinforcement that there is no magic solution for obesity problems and that weight is inevitably tied to the balance of eating and exercise.

Rep. Crosby asked about a Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) report regarding cost savings for Indiana based on obesity reduction recommendations made by HCFA.

²See attachment 1.

³Dr. Ingram's testimony is found in attachment 2.

Dr. Ingram stated that she was not familiar with that report, but that OMPP is in the process of assessing costs in relation to obesity reduction. Kathy Gifford, Director, OMPP, stated that she would look into those HCFA recommendations.

In response to a question from Rep. Crosby regarding pharmaceutical treatment of obesity, Dr. Ingram stated that OMPP is currently reviewing information regarding the most recently approved drugs and determining whether additional procedures would need to be in place if the drugs were covered under Medicaid.

In response to a question from Sen. Breaux regarding why obesity in children seems to be increasing, Dr. Ingram mentioned several reasons that children are not as active as they once were. She stated that the focus in children should be prevention of obesity.

Marilyn York, R.N., Director, Bariatric Services, St. Vincent Hospital, explained that obesity is not caused by one factor, and is not always controllable with diet. Ms. York stated that changes in diet and exercise, medications and surgery are all necessary components in reducing obesity, explaining that different interventions work for different people. Ms. York discussed changes in the way some insurance companies are determining whether they will pay for obesity treatment following the passage of SB 212-2000. She stated that some companies that formerly assessed the individual circumstances of an insured now use the criteria that were specified in SB 212 and deny payment for treatment. Sen. Rogers shared her thought that this was an unintended outcome of passage of SB 212.

Susan Lignell, Pharm.D., Roche Laboratories, provided a handout.⁴ Ms. Lignell stated that a BMI of 27 or greater increases the risk of having at least 1 comorbid condition such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, or diabetes mellitus. She pointed out that individuals with increased BMIs utilize more health services. She stated that diet and exercise are always the basics of weight loss, but that pharmacologic care is part of the treatment that should be available. Ms. Lignell explained that the drug produced by Roche, Xenical, is not a centrally acting substance, but instead works with a healthy diet by blocking 30% of dietary fat from digestion. She stated that her focus has been obtaining state Medicaid coverage for pharmaceutical obesity treatment.

Machiel Kennedy, M.D., Family Practice, related that he has completed bariatric training and will be sitting for board certification soon. He affirmed that obesity is an increasing problem and that small decreases in weight make big differences in decreasing risks associated with other health problems.

Costa Miller, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, spoke as an individual and related his own experience with achieving weight loss through surgical intervention after years of attempting weight loss through other methods. He explained that different intervention methods work for different people and stressed his disbelief that his insurance company would not approve coverage for surgical intervention for obesity, but would have paid for treatment of the medical complications resulting from obesity. Mr. Miller recommended review of the 18 month period of participation in a weight loss program required under SB 212-2000.

Eve Olson, M.D., a bariatric physician at St. Vincent Hospital, provided some statistics regarding increased risk of comorbid conditions associated with obesity and the converse decrease in risk for various conditions with decrease in weight. Dr. Olson stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to solving the problem of obesity, reaffirming that

⁴See Attachment 3.

different approaches work for different people. In response to a suggestion from Sen. Riegsecker, Dr. Olson affirmed that educating students beginning in elementary school regarding how the body utilizes food in an effort to prevent obesity would be beneficial.

Rep. Brown suggested that members of the Commission provide their requests for proposed legislation to Ms. Naughton and Mr. Brumer as the Commission meets through the interim in an effort to make the drafting process more efficient.

Rep. Budak suggested that the Commission discuss a statewide immunization registry in Indiana. Rep. Brown stated that additional subject matters such as that may be discussed in the October 24, 2000 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.